

Health Data Valley Innovation Call

What does Health Data Valley aim to achieve?

Health Data Valley is a cluster of public and private organizations in the Northern part of the Netherlands – including UMCG - focusing on advancing large data sources and employing data to achieve more healthy years. Health Data Valley aims to set the standard for supporting, monitoring, and evaluating regional and national health policies. It will provide the optimal conditions and collaborations for achieving data-supported health for citizens and patients.

By better utilizing health data, not only is effective health policy facilitated, but also the development of new health innovations for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment is optimally supported. Health Data Valley will be at the heart of the national model for smart, safe, and accessible secondary data use. This model serves as an example for other countries connected to the European Health Data Space.

The goals for Health Data Valley are:

- to optimize the access to and utilization of existing health and social data for innovation in healthcare and healthcare policymaking to achieve more healthy years for citizens and patients in the Northern region of the Netherlands

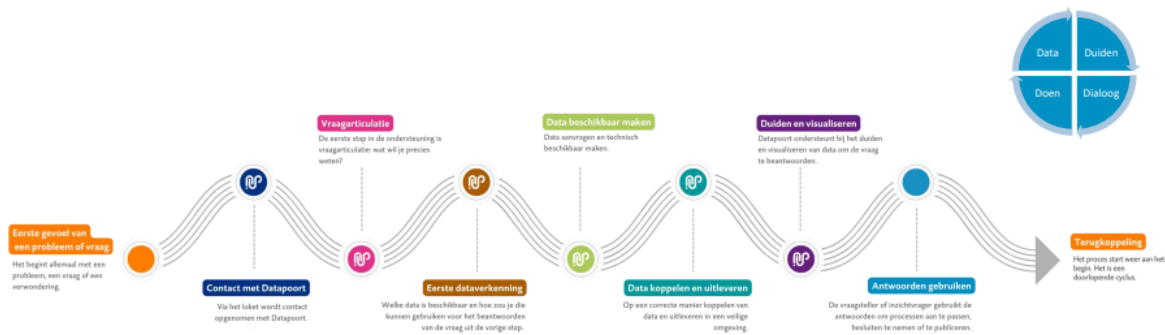
In Health Data Valley, various parties and initiatives collaborate to support health with data. This concerns both clinical data such as EHR data, imaging data and biomaterials, as well as data on social characteristics or the physical environment. Components of Health Data Valley include, for example, Datapoort, which provides an overview and access to data sources, a work environment, and the regional health data network, and is the regional implementation of Health-RI (see <https://datapootnoord.nl> and <https://www.health-ri.nl>); Lifelines, which collects, manages, and shares real-world data (see <https://www.lifelines.nl>); similar to the Cohort and Biobank Coordination Hub, which facilitates this for all large clinical cohorts from UMCG, also connecting these clinical cohort data with, for example, LifeLines (see [UMCG CBCH](#)). This creates a unique continuum of health data for many patients.

Health Data Valley aims to ensure a strong position of the Northern region as the central place for data-supported health policy. Support, monitoring, and evaluation of such policies must be tackled coherently. A joint data infrastructure with a clear governance structure around (re)use helps us combine our wisdom, link data sources, and democratize the evaluation of health policies. In this manner, we don't have to reinvent the wheel and can focus optimally on developing and implementing effective interventions.

The Northern part of the Netherlands, where health issues are significant, will benefit directly from all new developments by being the physical location of Health Data Valley. We aim for a well-organized, safe, and transparent decentralized network where all actors from the Northern region contributing to health have a connected data station and where they can make their data available, deduce real-time information, and have continuous access to usable data to

support, monitor, and evaluate their policies. A key principle in making data available is to ensure that it is done in a way that optimally guarantees the privacy of citizens and patients, and that data remains as much as possible at the source.

To further develop Health Data Valley, we aim to create a solid foundation. The foundation allows identifying data that can be used for later analysis, making data available, linking and delivering data, interpreting and visualizing data, to feedback (see the figure from the Datapoort pipeline, below).



What are we looking for in this call?

We are looking for your innovative and challenging, yet concrete proposals that support the goals of Health Data Valley and help create its solid foundation. In other words, how can your proposal help in identifying health and clinical data that can be used for later analysis, in making such data available, in linking and delivering such data to users – both from public and private parties - and/or in interpreting and visualizing such data? Hence, the goal is that, when your proposed project is realized, you would not only bring your own research or clinical practice forward, but this would also result in a ‘building block’ for Health Data Valley.

Proposals could aim to (examples, not an exhaustive list):

- support data access, digitization and management to make data more accessible for other users
- support technical development that facilitates the translation from data to information and knowledge
- support technical development to facilitate data generation
- support protocol development for data homogenization, including collection, documentation, (pre)-processing, and analysis
- increase public awareness of the value of health data
- facilitate data-based policymaking
- support data flow from data holders to data users and back

What we offer

We support a maximum of 5 projects with a typical budget of 50-200 kEuro and a typical duration of one year. Money can be used for personnel as well as other costs, as long as the proposal fulfills the requirements of the call. Financial matching is not required. When your proposal is deemed eligible, we will invite you to an event on December 12, 2024 (afternoon),

with other eligible applicants to provide further details about Health Data Valley and its running programmes and facilities and to combine proposals, in case of overlap. After that, the final decision on which projects will be awarded will be taken by the Health Data Valley Innovation committee (members are indicated at the end of this call). Being awarded also means that you will be assisted in getting in touch with the support facilities in the UMCG that you need help from.

Why you should apply / how we help

Health Data Valley is aware that many UMCG initiatives focused on improving data collection and handling fail because access to infrastructure and relevant parties are key to the project's success. Health Data Valley will sponsor your project and facilitate access to relevant stakeholders and infrastructure to your project. The selected projects will contribute to a bigger goal, the Health Data Valley goal, and we are committed to the success of your project.

What is expected from you if your proposal is rewarded

Reporting; granted projects are required to provide half-year updates to the HDV committee. Details and format on the reporting will be published shortly but clearly will involve predefined milestones. We aim to set up an efficient reporting process with minimum bureaucracy.

Eligibility criteria

Anyone working at the UMCG, with a contract for at least the period of the project.

How to apply

Are you facing any challenges that when solved, could help in building a solid foundation for Health Data Valley? If so, we look forward to your application via this template, [here](#). As we want to stimulate collaboration within the UMCG, we encourage joint applications between applicants that experience similar challenges. The deadline is 24 November 2024. We aim to have our final decision ready in January 2025.

If you have any questions about the procedure, do not hesitate to reach out at

Questions that need to be answered in the application template are:

1. What is the challenge that you face/innovative idea that you have with respect to this call?
2. How is it related to the aims of Health Data Valley?
3. Why can your challenge only be solved/idea only brought further by being awarded in this Health Data Valley call? Describe why your project cannot be financed by other funds and why you need sponsorship by Health Data Valley and facilitated access to relevant stakeholders and infrastructure at UMCG.
4. Why is this challenge/idea also relevant to others than yourself/your department? (think not only of others within the UMCG but in the whole Northern region, concerning all stakeholders in Health Data Valley, such as from care, education, research, SMEs, province, municipalities)
5. What are the potential internal and external collaboration partners?

6. Why should your challenge/idea be prioritized?

7. How will this challenge/idea lead to more healthy years in the region?

Timeline

24 November 2024: Application deadline

12 December 2024, 15:00-17:00 Boering Zaal: Information and combining proposals (event)

January 2025: decision

Members Health Data Valley Innovation committee

- Natasha Maurits (Chief Scientific Information Officer) - chair
- Job Doornberg (orthopedic surgeon / traumasurgeon)
- Rudolf Fehrman (internist-oncologist)
- Jingyuan Fu (Professor of Systems Medicine, researcher Genetics)
- Jochen Mierau (director Lifelines)
- Wim Timens (pathologist, chair Cohort & Biobank Coordination Hub)
- Rozemarijn Vliegenthart (Radiologist)
- Debbie van Baarle (Research director Immunology)
- Kaat van de Vyver (clustermanager Laboratory medicine)
- Tom van der Laan (Chief Medical Information Officer)
- Morris Swertz (Head Genomics Coordination Center)
- Ana Sauri Peris (Innovatiecentrum)
- Jan Willem Veldsink (Innovatiecentrum)